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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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Ravi Chandra

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EXAMINER

SHINGLES, KRISTIE D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2141

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PAPER

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 09/872,920	<b>Applicant(s)</b> CHANDRA ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> KRISTIE D. SHINGLES	<b>Art Unit</b> 2141	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

#### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

#### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 31 December 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

#### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-29,31-35 and 37-43 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,4-8,10-29,31-35 and 37-43 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

#### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

#### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

#### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)          | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)           |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____                                      |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)          | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____  | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                          |

## DETAILED ACTION

### Response to Amendments

Claims 24, 27, 32, 34 and 43 have been amended.

Claims 3, 9, 30 and 36 have been canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4-8, 10-29, 31-35 and 37-43 are pending.

### Response to Arguments

I. Applicant's arguments, see Remarks filed 12/31/2007, with respect to the rejection of claims 1, 7, 12, 13, 20, 24, 28, 34, 39 and 43 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) have been fully considered and are persuasive. Therefore, the rejection has been withdrawn. However, upon further consideration, a new ground(s) of rejection is made in view of *Sauvage* (US 6,651,185).

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101 Utility

II. 35 U.S.C. 101 reads as follows:

Whoever invents or discovers any new and useful process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or any new and useful improvement thereof, may obtain a patent therefor, subject to the conditions and requirements of this title.

III. **Claims 28 - 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 because the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.**

Claims 28 and 38 are directed toward a "machine-readable medium" which page 17 of Applicant's specification defines to include "propagated signals (e.g., carrier waves, infrared signals, digital signals, etc)". Propagation media in the context of this disclosure explicitly covers

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signals and carrier waves, which are not in compliance with 35 USC 101 statutory categories. These claims and their dependents are therefore rendered non-statutory for failing to be limited to embodiments which fall within a statutory category.

### Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

IV. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

V. **Claims 1 and 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Sauvage* (US 6,651,185).**

**Regarding claims 1 and 28,** *Sauvage* teaches a computer implemented method and machine-readable medium comprising:

- receiving by a second network process a first set of data from a first network process (*col.2 line 65-col.3 line 11, col.5 lines 12-27*);
- receiving a notification of death of the first network process (*col.2 lines 51-64, col.3 lines 48-50 and 60-62, col.4 lines 7-29—heart-beat message and error code notifying the system that the first process is dead*);
- death of the first network process (*col.3 lines 40-42 and 60-62*);
- clearing the first set of data by the second network process if a time period expires, the time period beginning upon receiving the notification of death of the first network process (*col.2 line 51-col.3 line 11—a time period is then set for confirming the death of the first process, once the time period has expired the first process is confirmed dead and the standby process becomes active and takes over the tasks of the first process*); and

- synchronizing by the second network process, the first set of data with a second set of data if the time period does not expire, the second set of data received from the first network process after the first network process restarts (*col.5 lines 6-27—synchronizing the data from of the first process with a second process or by respawning the process with the updated data*).

### CLAIM REJECTIONS - 35 USC § 103

VI. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

VII. **Claims 2, 4-8, 10, 11, 16-27, 29, 31-35 and 37-43 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Fuchs et al* (USPN 5,440,726) in view of *Sauvage* (US 6,651,185).**

a. **Regarding claim 16, *Fuchs et al* teach a network element comprising:**

- a first processor to execute a first and second network process, the first network process to generate a first set of data before restarting and a second set of data after restarting, the second network process to synchronize for itself the first and second set of data (*col.10 lines 15-20*);
- the second network process to synchronize the first set of data with a second set of data generated by the first network process before restarting upon determining a time period has not expired, (*col.11 lines 22-66, col.13 line 38-col.14 line 47*); and
- a second processor coupled to the first processor, the second processor to process a set of traffic using the first set of data before the first network process restarts and a third set of data after the first network process restarts (*col.10 line 14-col.11 line 18*).

*Fuchs et al* teach the death of a network process, yet fail to explicitly teach synchronize for itself the first and second set of data upon determining a time period has not

expired, the time period beginning upon receiving a notification of death of the first network process. However, *Sauvage* teaches a heart-beat message and error code that notifies the system that the first process is dead, then setting a time period for confirming the death of the first process, once the time period has expired the first process is confirmed dead and the standby process becomes active and takes over the tasks of the first process thus synchronizing the data from of the first process with a second process or by respawning the process with the updated data (*col.2 line 51-col.3 line 11, col.3 lines 48-50 and 60-62, col.4 lines 7-29, col.5 lines 6-27*).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the system of *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage's* process notification system for clearing the first set of data upon receiving the notification of death, because this prevents the system from further storing or processing invalid data because which may corrupt the system and compromise the integrity of the content communicated in the processes.

**b. Claims 20 and 24** contain limitations that are substantially similar to claim 16 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

**c. Claims 39 and 43** contain limitations that are substantially similar to claims 1 and 16 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

**d. Regarding claims 2, 27 and 29,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the computer-implemented method of claim 1, *Fuchs et al* further teach the method further comprising indicating the first set of data as stale upon receiving the notification of death (*col.9 line 11-col.11 line 18*).

**e. Regarding claims 4 and 31,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the computer implemented method of claim 1, *Fuchs et al* further teach the method wherein the first set of data

and the second set of data are synchronized after a done signal is received (*col.10 line 14-col.11 line 18, col.25 lines 35-65; Sauvage-col.5 lines 6-27*).

**f. Regarding claims 5 and 32,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the computer implemented method of claim 1, *Fuchs et al* further teach the method further comprising restoring a set of configurations to the network process after the first network process restarts (*Abstract, col.9 line 11-col.12 line 18*).

**g. Regarding claims 6 and 33,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the computer-implemented method of claim 1, *Fuchs et al* further teaches the method wherein further comprising clearing the second set of data if the time period expires and a done signal is not received (*col.8 lines 29-57, col.24 lines 33-43, col.27 lines 65-68; Sauvage-col.2 line 51-col.3 line 11*).

**h. Claims 7 and 34** are substantially equivalent to claims 5 and 6 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

**i. Claims 8 and 35** are substantially equivalent to claim 2 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

**j. Claims 10 and 37** are substantially equivalent to claim 4 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

**k. Claim 11 and 38** are substantially equivalent to claim 6 and are therefore rejected under the same basis.

**l. Regarding claim 17,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 16, *Fuchs et al* further teach the method wherein the first processor comprises a memory to store the first, second and third set of data (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53*).

**m. Regarding claim 18,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 16, *Fuchs et al* further teach the method further comprising the first processor to allocate a first memory to the first network process and a second memory to the second network process (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53; Sauvage—col.3 lines 43-46, col.4 lines 22-38*).

**n. Regarding claim 19,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 16, *Fuchs et al* further teach the method further comprising the first processor to allocate a first memory to the first network process, a second memory to the second network process, and a third memory to store the first set of data, the second set of data, and the third set of data (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53; Sauvage—col.3 lines 43-46, col.4 lines 22-38*).

**o. Regarding claim 21,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 20, *Fuchs et al* further teach the element wherein the first memory, the second memory and the third memory are main memory (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53*).

**p. Regarding claim 22,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 20, *Fuchs et al* further teach wherein the first memory, the second memory, and the third memory are mass storage (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53*).

**q. Regarding claim 23,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 20, *Fuchs et al* further teach wherein the first memory, the second memory, and the third memory are a set of regions of a memory (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53*).

**r. Regarding claim 25,** *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 24, *Fuchs et al* further teach wherein the second network element comprises: a first memory to store the first set of data and the synchronized set of data; and a second memory to store the second set of data (*col.13 lines 53-58, col.14 lines 48-53; Sauvage—col.5 lines 6-27*).

s. **Regarding claims 26 and 42**, *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the system of claims 24 and 39, *Fuchs et al* further teach further comprising the second network element to clear the first and second set of data if a time period expires (*col.8 lines 29-57, col.24 lines 33-43, col.27 lines 65-68, col.28 lines 34-44*).

t. **Regarding claim 40**, *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the method of claim 39, *Fuchs et al* further teach wherein the timer is initialized upon receipt of the death notification (*col.11 lines 47-53; Sauvage—col.3 lines 48-62*).

u. **Regarding claim 41**, *Fuchs et al* with *Sauvage* teach the method of claim 40, *Fuchs et al* further teach wherein the death notification is based on an absence of a heartbeat from the second network process (*col.11 lines 44-66; Sauvage—Abstract, col.3 lines 29-49*).

**VIII. Claims 12 - 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kidder et al* (US 6,694,450) in view of *Damani et al* (US 5,938,775) and *Sauvage* (US 6,651,185).**

v. **Regarding claim 12**, *Kidder et al* teach a network element comprising:

- a cross connect control module to host a first and second network process, the first network process to generate a first set of data after restarting and the second network process to synchronize for itself the first set of data with a second set of data generated by the first network process before restarting (*col.3 lines 42-52, col.3 line 63-col.4 line 6, col.42, line 66-col.43 line 12*); and
- a traffic card coupled to the cross connect module, the traffic card to process a set of traffic with the synchronized first and second set of data (*col.3 lines 42-52, col.3 line 63-col.4 line 6, col.42, line 66-col.43 line 12*).

*Kidder et al* fail to explicitly teach the second network process to synchronize the first set of data with a second set of data generated by the first network process before restarting upon determining a time period has not expired, the time period beginning upon receiving a notification of death of the first network process. However, *Damani et al* teach rollback-

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synchronization among the processes wherein the inter-process communication (orphaned) data rolled-back if the time period expires (*col.3 lines 32-40, col.6 lines 44-59, col.7 lines 9-34, col.9 lines 11-13, col.9 line 54-col.10 line 14*). Furthermore, *Sauvage* teaches a heart-beat message and error code that notifies the system that the first process is dead, then setting a time period for confirming the death of the first process, once the time period has expired the first process is confirmed dead and the standby process becomes active and takes over the tasks of the first process thus synchronizing the data from of the first process with a second process or by respawning the process with the updated data (*col.2 line 51-col.3 line 11, col.3 lines 48-50 and 60-62, col.4 lines 7-29, col.5 lines 6-27*).

Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the restart and rollback system of *Kidder et al* with *Damani et al*'s fault tolerant IPC message passing system and *Sauvage*'s process notification system wherein a notification of a process death is sent to alert other processes, doing so, allows for the other processes to stop communication with and processing data from the dead process since the data may corrupt the system and compromise the integrity of the processes.

**w. Regarding claim 13,** *Kidder et al* with *Damani et al* and *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 12, *Kidder et al* further teach the element wherein the cross connect module comprises a first and second memory to host the first and second network process (*col.3 lines 42-52, col.3 line 63-col.4 line 6*).

**x. Regarding claim 14,** *Kidder et al* with *Damani et al* and *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 12, *Kidder et al* further teach the element wherein the traffic card

comprises a set of processors to process the first and second set of data (*col.3 lines 42-52, col.3 line 63-col.4 line 6*).

y. **Regarding claim 15**, *Kidder et al* with *Damani et al* and *Sauvage* teach the network element of claim 12, *Kidder et al* further teach the element wherein the cross connect module comprises: a first memory to host the first network process; a second memory coupled to the first memory, the second memory to host the second network process; and a third memory coupled to the first and second memory, the third memory to store the first set of data, second set of data, and the synchronized set of data (*col.3 lines 42-52, col.3 line 63-col.4 line 6, col.42 line 66-col.43 line 12; Sauvage—col.5 lines 6-27*).

### ***Conclusion***

**IX.** The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Kampe et al (6823474), Chandra et al (6594779), Wallach et al (6292905), Laranjeira et al (6477663), Olarig et al (6370656), Kobayashi et al (6148415).

**X.** Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kristie D. Shingles whose telephone number is 571-272-3888. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday 8:00am-5:30pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Rupal Dharia can be reached on 571-272-3880. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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